

# Media Release



## Indigenous place names now on Google Street View

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The State Library of NSW has launched an innovative online tool TODAY that uses Google Street View to visually match Indigenous place names and meanings for over 1000 locations across the state.

*Muru View* combines the latest in interactive technology with 100-year-old Indigenous word lists and records from the Library's vast collection in a way that has never done before.

According to the acting NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive Lucy Milne: "*Muru View* is a wonderful collaboration between the State Library's innovative DX Lab and our Indigenous Services team, and we're so pleased to be launching this exciting initiative as part of the Library's NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Creative studio *Sandpit* was engaged to help develop the unique interactive experience, drawing on the placenames found in transcribed survey forms and correspondence received by the Royal Anthropological Society of Australasia between 1899 and 1903 from the Library's collection.

The online interface allows users to virtually travel through the suburbs, cities and towns mentioned in the historic records and see the corresponding Indigenous names and meaning in their 'real-life' locations.

"*Muru View* presents historic interpretations of Aboriginal languages giving us insight into the intricate relationships between Indigenous peoples and their connection to their land and community in a new and innovative way," said Kirsten Thorpe, Indigenous Services Manager at the State Library.

"By showing this rich data in the context of the locations it refers to, we hope to add another layer to people's understanding of these incredible records of our languages," said Ms Thorpe.

The digital experiment is part of the Library's ongoing Rediscovering Indigenous Languages project which aims to make accessible some of the oldest languages in the world by locating, digitising and providing access to Indigenous word lists, language records and other cultural documents, in consultation with the relevant Indigenous communities.

"This project seeks to increase public awareness of the Library's collection and support for Indigenous language and cultural history.

"We know that the historic lists may have recorded words and meanings inaccurately and so we are also seeking feedback from Aboriginal communities and users who may have knowledge and information on place names and meanings to help us represent these languages accurately," says Ms Thorpe.

Visit *Muru View* here: <http://dxlab.sl.nsw.gov.au/muruvuew/>

**Kirsten Thorpe and Paula Bray, DX Lab Leader are available for interviews.**

**For publicity images, interviews and more information, please contact:**

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Ngara  
Yar-re  
Gna\*

HEAR

SAY

SEE

\* Pronounced  
*nya-ra yar-ri nya*  
Sydney language

from the notebooks of  
William Dawes, 1790-91  
SOAS Library  
University of London